

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-04 /068 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5594

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, TH

SUBJECT: THAMMASAT 18 MAY BE PERMITTED DEFENSE COUNSEL

REF: (A) BANGKOK 19015

(B) BANGKOK 18800

1. BANGKOK POST REPORTED AUGUST 29 THAT THE CABINET MAY CONSIDER MEASURES TO MAKE IT LEGALLY POSSIBLE FOR THE THAMMASAT 18 TO BE REPRESENTED BY DEFENSE ATTORNEYS AT THEIR MILITARY COURT TRIALS, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 5. HOWEVER, SOURCES AT THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S OFFICE IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY SAY THAT AS OF AUG. 29, THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL DECISION TO MODIFY THE GOVERNING MILITARY REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE DEFENDANTS TO HAVE LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT AT THE TRIAL.

2. THE NEWSPAPER REPORT QUOTED PRIME MINISTER THANIN KRAIWICHIAN AS SAYING HE DESIRES TO SEE "NOT ONLY THAT JUSTICE IS DONE BUT IS SEEN TO BE DONE." THE ARTICLE ALSO REPORTED THAT OFFICIALS SOURCES RECOGNIZE THAT THE CASE IS LIKELY TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE IMPACT ON THE RTG'S HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND ABROAD.

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3. AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL (A), THE THAMMASAT 18 ARE BEING CHARGED WITH COMMUNIST ACTIVITY, TREASON, MURDER AND ATTEMPTED MURDER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INTRUSION, INCITING UNREST, AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS. THE NAMES OF THE PERSONS CHARGED ARE: FORMER NSCT SECRETARY-GENERAL SUTHAM SAENGPRATHUM. ANUPONG PONGSUWAN, APHINANT BUAHAPAKDI, SURACHAT

BUMRUNGSUK, PRAHON WANGSIRIPHITAK, VIROT
TANGVANICH, SUCHILA TANCHAINAND, SANGIAM CHAEMDUNG,
MAHINT TANBUNPOEN, PRAYUN AKKARABAVORN, AROM PONGPANGAN,
ATTAKARN UPPATHAMPAKUL, SUCHART PATCHARASORAVUTH, KONGSAK
ARSAPAK, THONGCHAI VINITCHAKUL, SOMSAK JIAMJIRAKUL, ORRISSA
IYARAWANWAT AND SERI SIRINUPONG. THE FIRST SIX LISTED
ABOVE ALSO FACE THE CHARGE OF LESE MAJESTE'.
O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

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